THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The doubling of Udhna-Jalgaon with electrification has been included in the Railway Budget 2008-09 at an anticipated cost of Rs. 716.60 crore. Final Location Survey including preparation of plans and estimate has been taken up and is in advance stage of progress. The part estimate for 85 Km length and five loops has been processed..

(b) The work of providing loop lines on six important railway stations on this section is being taken up with the main work of Udhna-Jalgaon, doubling.

(c) The work is likely to be completed during 2012-13.

Gauge conversion of Bhiladi-Samdari rail line

2384. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA:
SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rail Vikas Nigam Ltd. has completed the gauge conversion between Bhiladi-Samdari;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the gauge conversion would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The work involves converting a metre gauge line to broad gauge and entails large scale changes to the available infrastructure. This is a time consuming work, especially as it involves modifications to many facilities even when the trains are running, like improvement to platforms, strengthening of bridges, changes in signaling and track etc. This work is progressed as per the availability of resources. The work is now nearing completion and is likely to be completed during 2009-10.

Proposals for introduction of new trains

2385. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA:
SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how many proposals for introduction of new trains are pending with her Ministry;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Governments of Rajasthan and Maharashtra have made certain proposals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the criterion for introduction of new train and on what grounds the proposals received from the States of Rajasthan and Maharashtra are not being accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) 10 pairs of new train services announced in previous Railway budgets are yet to be introduced.

(b) and (c) Requests for introduction of new train services are received at various levels *viz.* station level, division level, headquarter level and Railway Board level. These requests including from Rajasthan and Maharastra are received throughout the year. Action as feasible is taken after thorough examination of various issues.

(d) New trains are introduced taking into account various factors like availability of resources, operational feasibility, traffic justification, public demand etc. In the Railway Budget 2009-10, 11 pairs and 20 pairs of new trains serving the states of Rajasthan and Maharashtra respectively have been announced.

Justice Sagir Ahmed Commission on collision of trains

2386. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Justice Sagir Ahmed Commission was set up on 13th February, 2001 to inquire into the collision of 3005 up Howrah-Amritsar rail with derailed wagons of dn Ajitwal-New Bongaigoan goods train on 2nd December, 2000 in Ambala-Ludhiana section of Northern Railway;

(b) if so, whether the report of the Commission has been received;

(c) if so, the salient features of the report; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. A Commission of Inquiry consisting of Justice S. Saghir Ahmed, Retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India as its sole member, has been appointed on 13th February, 2001 to inquire into the accident involving collision of 3005 Up Howrah-Amritsar Mail with the derailed wagons of Down Food grain Special on the Ambala-Ludhiana Section of Ambala Division of Northern Railway on 02.12.2000.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The inquiry is in progress. Requests have been made to expedite the inquiry.

Linking Bhiwadi with Delhi-Ahmedabad rail line

2387. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI MAHMOOD A. MADANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether linking Bhiwadi to Delhi Ahmedabad broad gauge railway line is vital for industrial growth of NCR as well as Rajasthan but the Railway Ministry has suggested the State Government to incur the cost of this project as Bhiwadi is an industrial hub of Rajasthan, which is located in the National Capital Region;

(b) whether Government of India, realizing the importance of the project would sanction this linking railway line;